

downwardly, said arcuate portion extending substantially the entire length between said forward end portion and the maximum height portion and curving downwardly and forwardly towards said forward end portion to provide said hacksaw with a lower overall height at the forward end portion of said frame member than at the maximum height portion, said maximum height portion being defined at the point where both the distance between said blade and said lower end cap is a maximum and the arcuate portion begins its downward and forward curvature;

a first blade mounting structure carried by the hacksaw frame assembly, one of said longitudinal end portions of said blade being removably mounted on said first blade mounting structure;

a releaseable blade tensioning device carried by the hacksaw frame assembly and providing a second blade mounting structure on which the other of said longitudinal end portions of said blade is removably mounted, said blade tensioning device being movable to (a) affect relative tensioning movement between said first and second blade mounting structures to tension said blade in the longitudinal direction thereof, and (b) to affect relative releasing movement between said first and second blade mounting structures to release the tension to allow for removal and replacement of said blade;

one of said first and second blade mounting structures being provided on said forward end portion of said frame member such that the tension in said blade caused by the relative tensioning movement of said blade mounting structures applies a rearwardly directed load to said forward end portion to create a bending moment which is distributed along said arcuate portion with said upper end cap along said arcuate portion being subject to tension and said lower end cap along said arcuate portion being subject to compression so that said upper and lower end caps cooperate to resist deflection of said frame member; and

said hacksaw frame assembly further comprising a manually engageable handle connected to said frame member for being manually grasped to enable performance of a cutting operation wherein the cutting edge of the tensioned blade is engaged with a work piece and moved forwardly and rearwardly to cut the work piece.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

3. (Amended) A low profile hacksaw according to claim 1, wherein the lower end cap of said I-beam frame member extends arcuately from a rearward end portion of said

frame member to the forward end portion of said frame member along a portion of the circumference of a first imaginary circle having a first centerpoint located below said blade, said maximum height portion being defined at said rearward end portion;

said upper end cap of said I-beam frame member extending arcuately from the rearward end portion of said frame member to the forward end portion of said frame member along a portion of the circumference of a second imaginary circle having a second centerpoint located below said blade.

16. (Amended) A hacksaw according to claim 1, wherein said at least one arc comprises only one arc which extends substantially the entire length of said arcuate portion.

17. (Amended) A low profile hacksaw according to claim 1, wherein said handle is formed integrally with said frame member as a one-piece construction with said frame member extending forwardly from said handle.

21. (Amended) A low profile hacksaw according to claim 1, wherein said blade tensioning device comprises:

a lever pivotally mounted to said handle, said lever providing the second blade mounting structure to which the other opposing end portion of said blade is removably mounted;

a tensioning mechanism constructed and arranged to (a) pivot said lever in a tensioning direction to affect relative movement between said blade mounting structures and thereby tension said blade and (b) fix said lever with respect to said handle to thereby maintain the tension in said blade.

See the attached Appendix for the changes made to effect the above claims.